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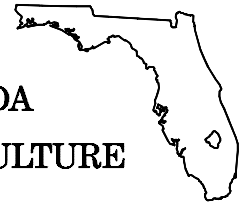
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LIVESTOCK

DAIRY & POULTRY

LDP-04-04

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



April 2004

TOPICS IN THIS REPORT

Cattle on Feed: Average Prices - Nebraska
Chickens and Eggs
Hatchery Production
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Livestock Slaughter

346,000, 700-799 pounds were 641,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during March, 8 percent above 2003 and 3 percent below 2002.

U. S. CATTLE ON FEED 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003 and 7 percent below April 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were

CATTLE ON FEED: U.S. Number Placed on Feed, by weight groups, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, Mar. 2003, Feb. and Mar. 2004

Month	Less than 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
<i>1,000 head</i>					
Mar 2003	270	389	742	631	2,032
Feb 2004	319	351	548	392	1,610
Mar 2004	347	346	641	470	1,804

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, AND UNITED STATES

State	Number on feed March 1			Placed during March			Marketed during March			Other disappearance during March			Number on feed April 1		
	2003	2004	2004-03	2003	2004	2004-03	2003	2004	2004-03	2003	2004	2004-03	2003	2004	2004-03
	<i>1,000 head</i>			<i>Percent</i>			<i>1,000 head</i>			<i>Percent</i>			<i>1,000 head</i>		
AZ	279	295	106	31	33	106	29	32	110	3	3	100	278	293	105
CA	475	500	105	62	70	113	58	71	122	4	4	100	475	495	104
CO	990	1,020	103	160	150	94	175	190	109	5	10	200	970	970	100
ID	280	265	95	58	39	67	57	46	81	1	3	300	280	255	91
IA	380	405	107	56	69	123	60	56	93	1	3	300	375	415	111
KS	2,240	2,390	107	510	460	90	410	470	115	20	20	100	2,320	2,360	102
NE	2,190	2,270	104	320	295	92	310	350	113	10	5	50	2,190	2,210	101
NM	112	112	100	16	16	100	22	21	95	1	2	200	105	105	100
OK	320	335	105	94	74	79	71	77	108	3	2	67	340	330	97
SD	215	210	98	39	33	85	43	36	84	1	2	200	210	205	98
TX	2,560	2,690	105	600	490	82	480	530	110	10	10	100	2,670	2,640	99
WA	180	175	97	31	29	94	30	33	110	1	1	100	180	170	94
Oth. Sts.	325	310	95	55	46	84	58	54	93	2	2	100	320	300	94
U.S.	10,546	10,977	104	2,032	1,804	89	1,803	1,966	109	62	67	108	10,713	10,748	100

AVERAGE PRICES, NEBRASKA, DOLLARS PER CWT

Week ended	Slaughter steers				Slaughter heifers			
	Choice 1150-1500 lbs				Choice 1000-1300 lbs			
	2003		2004		2003		2004	
Mar 27	78.87		83.20		78.44		82.99	
Apr 03	79.88		83.86		79.52		83.68	
Apr 10	79.88		86.22		79.52		86.21	

CHICKENS AND EGGS

FLORIDA

Table eggs sold in mid-April 2004 averaged 85.0 cents, down 16.0 cents from mid-March. Table egg production in Florida during March was 260 million eggs, up 12 percent from the previous month.

UNITED STATES

U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003. March 2004 contained 23 weekdays, four Saturdays compared to March 2003 which contained 21 weekdays, and five Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2004, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during March 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 318 million, was up slightly from a year ago.

MID-MONTH TABLE EGG PRICES RECEIVED BY FLORIDA EGG PRODUCERS.

Month	Cents per dozen	
	2003	2004
January	55.0	81.0
February	56.0	81.0
March	51.0	101.0
April	52.0	85.0
May	41.0	
June	50.0	
July	51.0	
August	57.0	
September	63.0	
October	72.0	
November	83.0	
December	75.0	

FLORIDA: Layers on hand first of month, percent molting and molted

	Apr 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2004
Total layers on hand: Thous.	10,785	11,105	11,481	10,903
Percent of layers:				
Being molted	3.0	3.5	3.5	2.0
Molt completed	28.5	30.5	30.5	29.5

LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION, MARCH 2004, PRODUCTION YEAR-TO-DATE EGG PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES

Selected States	Average layers on hand	Eggs per 100 layers	Egg production				Layers	
			Total	Table	Hatching	Year to date ^{1/}	Being molted	Molt completed
	<i>Thousand</i>							
				<i>Millions</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
Alabama	9,224	1,865	172	44	128	692	0.0	3.5
Arkansas	15,212	1,913	291	98	193	1,104	1.0	9.0
California	20,529	2,246	461			1,810	1.5	29.0
Florida	11,481	2,352	270	260	10	1,020	2.0	29.5
Georgia	20,510	2,101	431	259	172	1,692	1.0	17.0
Indiana	23,229	2,234	519	506	13	2,053	0.0	34.0
Iowa	41,156	2,294	944			3,667	4.5	34.5
Maine	4,002	2,299	92			363	0.0	0.0
Maryland	3,268	2,326	76	75	1	287	8.5	31.0
Michigan	7,470	2,222	166			643	3.0	32.0
Minnesota	10,991	2,293	252	244	8	983	2.5	26.0
Mississippi	7,004	1,956	137	42	95	530	0.0	11.0
Missouri	7,207	2,206	159			614	2.0	20.0
Nebraska	11,828	2,317	274	274		1,063	8.0	20.5
New York	4,091	2,469	101			385	3.0	1.0
North Carolina	10,939	1,956	214	80	134	836	0.0	8.5
Ohio	27,463	2,218	609			2,408	3.0	25.0
Pennsylvania	24,063	2,352	566	549	17	2,173	2.5	19.0
South Carolina	5,225	2,163	113	94	19	454	4.5	27.0
Texas	18,728	2,184	409			1,605	0.5	24.5
Virginia	3,335	2,009	67			253	0.0	13.0
Washington	4,944	2,245	111			430	4.5	42.0
Other States	48,936	2,193	502	414	89	3,097	3.0	24.3
United States	340,835	2,209	7,530	6,444	1,087	29,332	2.6	23.4

^{1/} Production year begins December 1.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The March hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 4,783,000 was 19 percent below a year earlier. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on April 1, at 4,027,000, were 11 percent below a year ago.

Egg-type hatch during March at 608,000 chicks was six percent below last year. Egg-type eggs in incubators on April 1, at 527,000 were four percent above a year ago.

UNITED STATES

Leading breeders placed 6.8 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2004, down 3 percent from March 2003.

The March 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 791 million, was up 2 percent from March of the previous year. There were 653 million eggs in incubators on April 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 37.5 million, up 2 percent from March 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.9 million on April 1, 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 401,000 during March 2004, up 26 percent from March 2003.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES

Item	2003	2004	2004 % of 2003
<i>-- Thousands --</i>			
EGG-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Apr 1	34,880	33,872	97
Chicks hatched during Mar	36,775	37,530	102
Pullets hatched during Mar for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	319	401	126
7-18 months earlier ^{1/}	2,886	2,927	101
BROILER-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Apr 1	638,507	652,526	102
Chicks hatched during Mar	774,354	791,149	102
Pullets hatched during Mar for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	7,038	6,815	97
7-15 months earlier ^{2/}	62,559	61,719	99

^{1/} 2004 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2002 through August 2003.

^{2/} 2004 includes pullet chicks hatched December 2002 through August 2003.

MILK PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

Florida dairy farms produced 214 million pounds of milk during March 2004, up three percent from the previous March. Production per cow of 1,540 pounds was seven percent above last year. Milk cow numbers on Florida dairy farms in March totaled 139,000, four percent below last year.

UNITED STATES

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND U.S.

Month and year		Milk cows	Monthly milk production	
			Per cow	Monthly Total
		<i>Thous.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>
FLORIDA:				
March	2003	145	1,435	208
February	2004	139	1,410	196
March	2004	139	1,540	214
20 MAJOR STATES:				
March	2003	7,810	1,666	13,014
February	2004	7,716	1,528	11,787
March	2004	7,714	1,656	12,776
UNITED STATES:				
March	2003	9,141	1,646	15,044
February	2004	8,992	1,510	13,578
March	2004	8,988	1,638	14,721

MILK PRODUCTION BY QUARTERS, UNITED STATES

Month	Milk cows ^{1/}		Milk per cow ^{2/}		Milk production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>	
Jan-Mar	9,144	8,991	4,710	4,748	43,069	42,688
Apr-Jun	9,109		4,827		43,965	
Jul-Sep	9,073		4,601		41,746	
Oct-Dec	9,011		4,609		41,532	
Annual Total	9,084		18,749		170,312	

^{1/} Dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat output in Florida for March 2004 was 4.9 million pounds, 12 percent below the same month last year.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States for March at 3.95 billion pounds, was six percent above 2003.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND UNITED STATES

Source and kind	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	Year to date 2003	Year to date 2004
FLORIDA					
Cattle slaughtered (1000 head) ^{1/}	8	8	7	24	20
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	9	9	9	25	25
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	1,669	1,544	1,598	4,407	4,325
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.8
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	22	16	22	92	53
Red meat production (million pounds)	5.6	4.4	4.9	16.5	14.0
UNITED STATES					
CATTLE:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	2,774	2,427	2,871	8,351	7,875
Total liveweight (million pounds)	3,422	2,992	3,493	10,476	9,696
Average liveweight (pounds)	1,234	1,233	1,217	1,255	1,232
Beef production (million pounds)	2,048	1,803	2,109	6,282	5,836
CALVES:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	85	72	77	262	228
Total liveweight (million pounds)	27	24	24	83	75
Average liveweight (pounds)	323	336	308	319	327
Veal production (million pounds)	17	15	14	51	45
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	8,168	7,886	9,039	24,654	25,714
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,187	2,111	2,419	6,588	6,892
Average liveweight (pounds)	268	268	268	267	268
Pork production (million pounds)	1,623	1,571	1,801	4,898	5,130
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	263	213	307	728	739
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	36	30	44	98	105
LAMB AND MUTTON:	18	15	22	49	52
Red meat production (million pounds)	3,706	3,403	3,946	11,279	11,064

^{1/} Does not include calf slaughter data.

* Revised.